

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 923

By Finney L

A RESOLUTION congratulating the membership of Dresden First Baptist Church on the celebration of the church's 100th anniversary.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this General Assembly should recognize those venerable religious institutions and their congregations who, through their unflagging capacity for love, dedication of spirit, and faith in God, enrich the lives of people in their communities; and

WHEREAS, the good people of Dresden First Baptist Church in Weakley County comprise one such congregation, and they are celebrating the church's 100 years of service to the Lord and their community this year; and

WHEREAS, Dresden First Baptist Church commemorated 100 years of worship and service in the Dresden community on August 19, 2007, with a celebration that included special services, a pot luck dinner on the grounds, and Gospel singing; and

WHEREAS, the history of Dresden First Baptist Church dates back to July 18, 1907, when Bro. L. D. Summers, a pastor at Greenfield, Tennessee, held a successful revival in a small tent in Dresden that resulted in the establishment of a Missionary Baptist Church with 15 charter members; and

WHEREAS, from that first tent meeting one hundred years ago to a membership of more than 600 today, Dresden First Baptist Church has become a beacon of light in Weakley County in service to God and humanity; and

WHEREAS, originally meeting with Bro. Summers one Sunday per month with services held in the Cumberland Presbyterian Church and other places, the congregation built its first church building on a lot on Maple Street that was donated by Mr. Ben Irvine, grandfather of Mrs. Jimmy Hamlin; and

WHEREAS, then called the First Missionary Baptist Church of Dresden, the building was completed and clear of debt in July 1910, and would later be the site where Bro. T. N. Hale, the church's longest serving pastor, began his tenure on December 22, 1919; and

WHEREAS, serving as pastor for over 16 years, Bro. Hale preached the first sermon, on March 13, 1927, in the new church building erected on the corner of Locust and Church Streets that would house the congregation that now numbered nearly 300; and

WHEREAS, in 1959, the Church Annex was purchased, and in February 1965, a lot was purchased for the new pastorium that was constructed and dedicated in December of that same year; and

WHEREAS, continuing to grow its flock, Dresden First Baptist Church purchased seven acres of land on Greenfield Highway in 1972, broke ground in 1974, and moved into their new church building and fellowship hall in 1975, with a dedication being held on August 24, 1975; and

WHEREAS, realizing the need for additional educational space and an adequate fellowship hall in 1989, the membership thoughtfully studied their needs, committed themselves to their fundraising efforts, and built the wonderful facilities they now call home, with a special dedication ceremony being held on January 14, 1996; and

WHEREAS, Dresden First Baptist Church over the years has enjoyed the inspired leadership of Bro. G. T. Mayo, Dr. H. E. Watters, Dr. J. H. Anderson, Bro. W. Albert Gardner, Bro. T. N. Hale, Bro. Dewey Stubblefield, Bro. Lyn Claybrook, Bro. C. L. Nicely, Bro. James Heisner, Bro. Paul Isbel, Bro. Fred Wood, Bro. Lacy Freeman, Bro. George Douglas, Bro. E. E. Willis, Bro. Keith E. Wooster, Bro. R. A. Boston, Dr. Mike Davis, Dr. James Gaines, and Dr. Don McCulley; and

WHEREAS, Dresden First Baptist Church enjoys an ever growing congregation of members who are committed to serving their community through ministries of preaching, teaching, and advocacy; and

WHEREAS, Dresden First Baptist Church has stood on the rock-solid foundation of Christian belief, service, and love for 100 years, serving as a bastion of faith and outreach to the people of Weakley County; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor and recognize Dresden First Baptist Church on the occasion of its 100th anniversary and offer our sincerest wishes to its pastor and members for the church's continued growth and prosperity.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.